

REDESCRIPTION OF *PROTOLEURON RHODOGASTER* (SPHINGIDAE),
AN UNCOMMON NEOTROPICAL MOTH

Additional key words: Ecuador, Peru, taxonomy, *Aleuron*, *Stolidoptera*.

Protoleuron Rothschild and Jordan is a monotypic genus considered to be most closely related to *Aleuron* Boisduval and *Stolidoptera* Rothschild and Jordan (Rothschild & Jordan 1903, D'Abbrera 1986:104). *Protoleuron* shares with *Aleuron* the characteristic angular labial palpus; it is similar to *Stolidoptera* in its absence of a produced lobe at the anal margin of the hindwing and in the presence of symmetrical male genitalia. *Protoleuron* is distinguished from these two genera by the prominent, elongate, uniserial spines on the posterior abdominal tergites (Rothschild & Jordan 1903). *Protoleuron* is similar to *Stolidoptera* in wing maculation and coloration, but the lateral wing margin of the male forewing is distinctly dentate in *Protoleuron*, whereas it is more produced and scalloped in *Stolidoptera*.

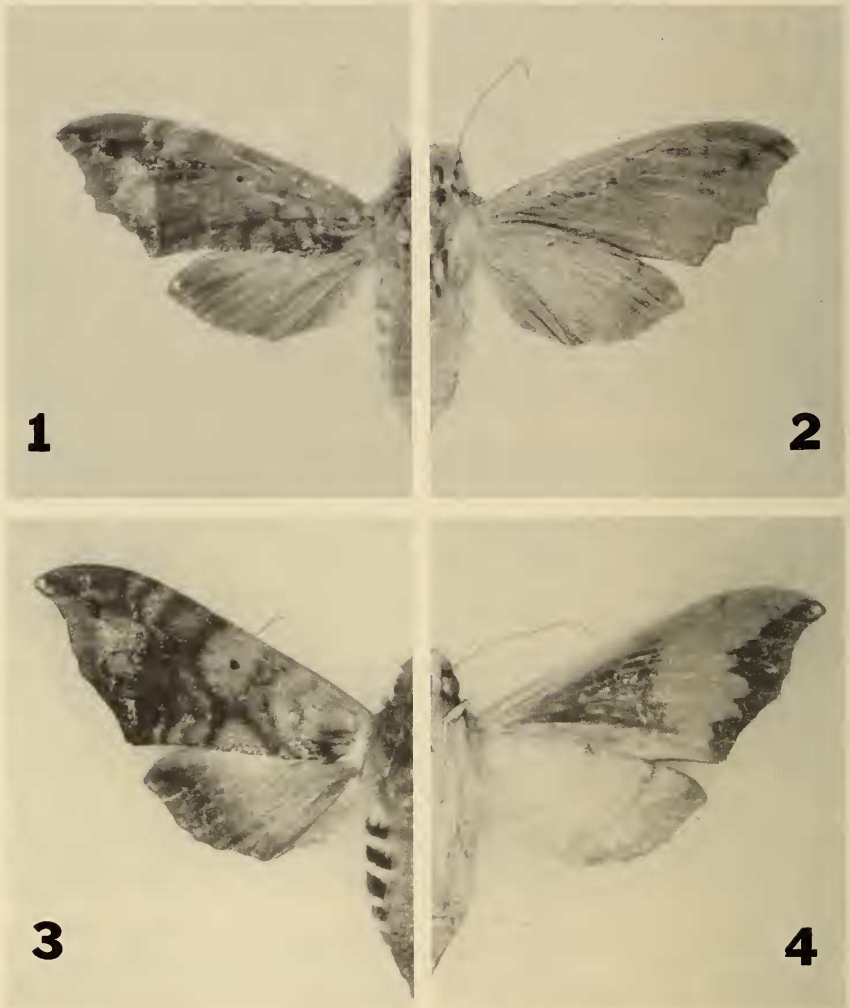
Apparently restricted to South America (Rothschild & Jordan 1903), *Protoleuron* is known from only two specimens—the holotype male from Ecuador and a female from Peru. The geographical range of *Stolidoptera* is reportedly broader—Mexico to Venezuela (D'Abbrera 1986:102). Here we report the capture of a third specimen of *Protoleuron rhodogaster* Rothschild and Jordan in Ecuador, and redescribe this little-known species.

On 27 May 1976, NRV collected a single female of *P. rhodogaster* near Cosanga, Napo Province, Ecuador, 2150 m, in a swampy clearing of primary cloud forest at 1900 h. No additional individuals of this species were observed during subsequent evenings at this collecting site.

The female was kept alive and, on the following day, she deposited 10-12 spherical (1 mm), glossy—almost translucent—off-white eggs along with a few abdominal setae and scales in the collection box. No changes in egg color were observed, but three days later, black, sparsely setose larvae emerged. Although several potential food plants in the area were offered to the caterpillars, an appropriate larval host apparently was not found. Subsequent visits to the locality found the habitat destroyed and the area developed.

Because the three known specimens of *P. rhodogaster* differ in wing coloration, and because the illustration of the dorsal surface of the holotype male (Rothschild & Jordan 1903: pl. 5, fig. 18) is considerably darker and does not illustrate some critical characters, especially the pinkish crimson shading below, we redescribe *Protoleuron rhodogaster* here.

Male. Head: Grayish olive above, buff mixed with olive below. Labial palpi angulate, pinkish crimson proximad, shading to buff admixed with olive distad. Antennae approximately one-half forewing length, pinkish crimson to reddish coral above, devoid of scales below, but with fine sparse setae and buff club. **Thorax:** Grayish olive above, grayish olive to buff overlaid with pinkish crimson below. Legs smooth, grayish olive proximad, shading to buff distad; spurs on hindtibia shorter and separated by a setal tuft. **Abdomen:** Blackish brown above, etched posteriorly in buff, with a dark gray-olive middorsal line; sternites pinkish crimson etched posteriorly in grayish olive. **Forewing:** Upper surface grayish olive, with prominent darker bands: one basal, three medial, and three postmedial; a blackish brown spot near end cell; incomplete dark brown oblique lines extending from near apex at R_3 to M_2 - M_3 at end cell; few blue-white scales at base, along anal margin, across end cell, and especially along the distal margin of distal postmedian band extending from M_1 - M_2 to Cu_2 -2A. Lower surface olive brown in basal two-thirds, distal area overlaid with pinkish crimson to coral; incomplete dark brown oblique line enhanced below and coalesced with the distal postmedian band, the last deeply incised in M_1 - M_2 . Fringe dark gray-brown above and below. **Hindwing:** Upper surface dull gray-brown. Lower surface pinkish crimson in anterior two-thirds, shading to dull grayish olive posteriorly, with two or three subtle postmedian bands. Fringe dark gray-brown above, gray below.



FIGS. 1-4. The two known females of *Protoleuron rhodogaster*. 1-2, Peru (CMNH): 1, Dorsal aspect; 2, Ventral aspect. 3-4, Ecuador (collection of J. M. Cadiou): 3, Dorsal aspect; 4, Ventral aspect.

Female (Figs. 1-4). Similar to male, but differs in body coloration below, which in female is predominantly coral to crimson, particularly on the abdomen. **Forewing:** Upper surface markings more distinct than in male, especially the darker postmedian bands; the distal median and proximal postmedian bands coalesce in Cu_2-2A . Lower surface dark gray-brown, with the area distad of distal postmedian band lighter gray-brown, with sparse red-coral to crimson scales. Distal postmedian band not as deeply incised in M_1-M_2 as in male. **Hindwing:** Similar to male in coloration, but lighter in discal area.

The three known specimens of *Protoleuron rhodogaster* are: holotype male, Ecuador (Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford University); female (Figs. 1, 2), Peru (Carnegie

Museum of Natural History); and female (Figs. 3, 4), Ecuador, Napo, Cosanga, 2100 m, 27.v.1976, N. R. Venedictoff (private collection of J. M. Cadiou). Forewing lengths: holotype male, 37 mm; females, 33 mm and 44 mm.

The female of *Protoleuron rhodogaster* collected near Cosanga, Ecuador, is similar to the holotype male in coloration and wing maculation, but the pinkish crimson areas on the wings are considerably brighter. The antennae of this female were bright reddish coral initially and darkened slightly with age. In addition, the ventral body is overscaled much more heavily with reddish coral. The shape of the lateral wing margin is variable among the three specimens, but the marginal dentation is less distinct in the females.

Despite the variation in wing shape, wing maculation, and coloration of the ventral surface, this species is distinct and cannot be mistaken for any other neotropical spingid. The unexpected time of capture (1900 h) may indicate an early flight time that might account for the infrequent collection of *Protoleuron rhodogaster*. We encourage other collectors to be more observant and adaptable in their field collecting schedules.

We thank David Spencer Smith, Hope Entomological Collections, for providing photographs of the type specimen; and Robert Davidson and John Rawlins, Section of Invertebrate Zoology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, for the loan of the female specimen from Peru. We particularly thank J. M. Cadiou for sharing information and Lee D. Miller for comments on the manuscript.

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THREE NOMINAL GENERA OF CRAMBIDAE OMITTED FROM "THE GENERIC NAMES OF MOTHS OF THE WORLD, VOLUME 5, PYRALOIDEA"

Additional key words: Pyraustinae, Nymphulinae, *Arthromastix*, *Nothomastix*, *Microdracon*.

Warren (1890) formally described 19 new genera of Pyraloidea, and these have found their places in the literature of the group. However, within the descriptions of two of these genera he published three additional generic names that have been overlooked almost totally. These are *Arthromastix* Warren, *Nothomastix* Warren, and *Microdracon* Warren.

Arthromastix and *Nothomastix* were proposed in the diagnosis of *Pardomima* Warren (1890:478). According to Warren (1890), *Pardomima* is "Distinguished from *Arthromastix lauralis* (*Salbia lauralis* Guen.) and *Nothomastix chromalis* (*Botys chromalis* Wlk.), with which it otherwise agrees, by the simple male antennae and untufted legs." Though a common character is given to distinguish the two genera from *Pardomima*, this in itself does not qualify as a description or diagnosis as it does not distinguish them from each other. However, one previously published species is included in each (*Salbia lauralis* "A.